

# Leader of Women Democrats "Swings Around the Circle"

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HITTING the trail with a woman political leader is one of the newest pastimes now that the two great national parties have admitted the feminine element to their councils. True, those who would follow the wide swaths cut by this addition to party machinery must do so through newspaper clippings and by word of mouth tales.

On the desk of an executive of the National Democratic Committee in Washington is a scrapbook like unto nothing that has ever before been glared to blank pages. It is the newspaper history of an official tour of Mrs. George Bass, chairman of

the Women's Associate Committee of the Democratic organization. She has just returned from a trip through the West with the Homer Cummings party, touching many states. She made political history for the women.

The book in question may contain balm for many a partisan Democratic wound. That remains for the officials of the national committee to judge. It does hold much of human interest for the lay reader, be he partisan or non-partisan, because every one is curious about the only woman in an official party of politicians on business bent.

No Longer An Auxiliary

About the first thing Mrs. Bass did upon arriving in a town was to

## Mrs. George Bass, "New Citizen," Member in Full Standing of the National Democratic Committee, Takes a Trip With Them Across the Country on a "Fence" Inspection Tour

disabuse the minds of the local reception committee that she was an "auxiliary." It might as well be explained here that in taking this personally conducted tour through the scrapbook's pages the "tourist" notes a marked change in temperature and barometric pressure in the accounts written west of Chicago.

As we said, Mrs. Bass usually had to remove the idea from the minds of the local politicians and the press that she came along as an adjunct. She insisted that the party was welcoming women on an equality with men, and if clippings be true, certainly she had no cause to complain as to the way the local supporters of the party brought their families along for the parties and conferences. Out in Chicago, where the tour started after a party meeting in May, a newspaper said that "she burst out of the door behind which a conference was being held and seated herself in a chair with an electric air."

According to that same Chicago paper, one evening of the National Committee's council was turned over to her. Many states sent their women associate state chairmen to the gathering, and it was a fitting send-off for the first invasion of the West by the head of the "Democrats," as another Western paper termed the fair politician. Mrs. Bass was a well known civic and political worker in Chicago before she went into the Liberty Loan and kindred war activities. She has been in the West on public business twice previously, but never before as the chairman of a national political party organization focussed on the purpose of putting its own candidates in Congress and the White House.

propitiate and ensnare the coveted woman vote?

"Was she selected because of influential male relatives?"

The answer to each question was negative, especially since it was learned that masculine members of the Bass family were recorded as being Republicans.

A cartoonist was inspired to draw two separate pictures of men and women alignments in the grand old game of party politics. One sketch showed the women gathered together on one side of the path of govern-

considering the political map of this country.

Forever Optimistic

Optimism must be a never failing trait of the woman political leader. For example, take the interview quoted with Mrs. Bass after she had shaken hands all around with the potential Democrats of her own sex who came down to meet the train at Albuquerque, N. M. She announced, say the headlines, that she "expected New Mexico to be among

itor. Here is what one of the papers said: "While her masculine conferees struggled with collar buttons and other details of their morning preparations aboard the train, Mrs. Bass stepped off the train promptly at 7:20 o'clock, as fresh as the sunshine she stepped into. She was faultlessly attired in a suit of dark tricotine and patent leather pumps, that are doubtless smaller than any distinguished Democratic shoes that ever before alighted in Seattle."

Tacoma, Wash., also gave a luncheon, but Butte, Mont., went one better and had three governors to meet the lady and the party. Yellowstone Democrats looked with wonder on the new woman leader, publicly stating that she occupied a post "which

has more influence than that of a Senator, or a Governor, or Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor." A number of women reporters tried to emphasize Mrs. Bass's domesticity by playing up the fact that she "kept house" in three cities, but, generally speaking, there was little of this sort of apologetic writing. That the men now had to put on dress suits for the evening affairs and stop smoking and smile sweetly at the politesse about them made a good story for many a harried political writer, but its importance was nil. There may be more jaunts for women political leaders in the Democratic party, but the Golden West and Mrs. Bass will long remember the one made in 1913.

## The Girl Scouts' Drive

Editor's Note.—Mrs. Anne Hyde Choate, first vice-president of the Girl Scouts in America, is working on the drive for sustaining membership which the organization will conduct next month. She prepared the following article on her belief in scouting exclusively for The Tribune Institute.

By ANNE HYDE CHOATE

WITH the coming of woman suffrage it behooves us to open up every path that leads to training in citizenship; and one of those paths, that leads through the most fascinating country, in the most amusing company, is scouting for girls.

To expand the organization of the Girl Scouts in America and enable it to further its usefulness and extend its work for girls between ten and eighteen years of age a campaign for funds will be undertaken next month. The drive will be for \$100,000, beginning October 25 and continuing one week until November 1.

The drive will be confined strictly to Manhattan, not extending to any of the other four boroughs of the city. Headquarters for the campaign will be at 189 Lexington Avenue, the national headquarters of the Girl Scouts.

first aid, housekeeping and hobbies of whatever kind that appeal to her.

Moreover, scouting stands for health, and anything that increases a girl's desire for and determination to keep a healthy body is of inestimable worth. We have all been shocked by the discoveries of the lack of healthy bodies that came when the boys were examined for the draft, and we have no reason to suppose that the health of the American girls is any better.

Playing The Game

Americans need scouting to teach them to work together. Scouting, through the simple drilling and patrol system, through its inter-patrol, intertroop competitions, teaches girls to work as a body. It cries out to them:

"Play the game! According to the rules! In your place! Play for your side, not for yourself!"

In describing how he came to start the scout movement Sir Robert Baden-Powell writes:

"In the beginning I had used scouting—that is, woodcraft handicraft, cheery helpfulness—as a means for training young soldiers when they first joined the army, to help them to become handy, capable men and able to hold their own with any one instead of being mere drilled machines."

Soon after the Boer War he

The Fifty-Fifty Plan Urged

Early in the journey the papers began running Mrs. Bass's picture freely, more freely than those of others in the party, which was one advantage in being a feminine politician. She was snapped with the men of the party, standing in awkward rows, smiling under the sun's glare, or caught in Billy Sunday poses on or off the train and alone. This latter class usually had such a caption as "The Future Hope of 1920" or "She Says Women Are in Politics to Stay." Sometimes, to make her realize that she was still in America, an enterprising reporter would misspell her name.

In St. Louis they gave her an ovation, and in return she urged that the fifty-fifty plan for men and women's party organization be followed in each Congressional district. A local paper raised these queries: "Is she a figurehead, appointed to



Mrs. George Bass was "written up" from coast to coast

ment, with the men, in their best bib and tucker, smiling and waving to them to come over and join the ranks. The second showed, presumably, the same men gathered in alternate pairs with the same women about the conference table, seriously

the first of the states to ratify the Federal suffrage amendment." This state did have the distinction of holding its first political meeting attended by women while she was there.

In Omaha, Neb., the same thing

happened while Mrs. Bass was in town. The women of the state had never participated in the party meetings before. A Des Moines, Iowa, newspaper reported the "old political talkfests are with us again, but they have a new note. This is struck by the advent of the woman voter, and when they sat in the meeting to-day many a white glove was split with the applause that greeted the men who addressed them as 'Fellow citizens.' But when another of the masculine speakers said 'We welcome this new citizenry with open arms' the new citizenry laughed loudly and roundly."

By this time Mrs. Bass must have gone on her milk diet. It had to be done in self-defence. Luncheons at noon and banquets in the evening have been known to break down many a cast-iron digestion. So Mrs. Bass found that to keep her well known vigor and good health she must devote her 'mealtimes' to conversation of a political nature and refresh herself with milk. In these days of high cost of living it must have been said to miss the menus. They were usually handsomely engraved, more of the engraving going to set forth the courses than to describe the guests of honor, although the lettering used on the banquet cards was as large for the woman leader as for Chairman Cummings of the National Democratic Committee himself.

Judging by the clippings, one couldn't tell just what part of the Pacific Coast is most addicted to feasting. Los Angeles did entertain Mrs. Bass with a close-up view of the film players at Universal City and declared that she had "proved to be a woman's woman. Although 'en-ised' in a sea of titles to offices that denote nation-wide power, she looks neither like a suffragist nor a general." Los Angeles also said that her visit had marked the most successful Democratic caucus the city had ever known.

### Selecting Frocks to The League of Nations

The states of Oregon and Washington outrivalled each other with luncheons and speeches. The eighty-year-old daughter of the first territorial Governor of Oregon paid her respects. Oregon's only woman legislator presided at a luncheon. A Portland reporter it was who visited Mrs. Bass when she was preparing for one of these gala luncheons and found her laying out her frocks, getting ready for the mail, discussing the league of nations and telling about the advent of women in politics. Portland also saw Mrs. Bass "with the swing and dash of a girl of twenty" step off the train as fresh as the day she started five weeks ago.

Seattle liked the new kind of vis-

## Suffrage in Many Skirts

By ELEANOR K. McDONNELL

SHE was pink and fat—and she was Dutch. I could not be certain whether she wore eight petticoats or only seven! But she was of a rotundity that obviously was sartorial as well as corporeal. The inevitable apron and the 'kerchief crossed over bosom, Quaker fashion, that is an indispensable part of the Holland peasant woman's full dress attire added to the bulk of her, and the lace coif, with the heavy gilt metal ornaments showing through the interstices, emphasized her picturesqueness.

I had seen an almost exact replica of her around in the Mauritius, which is the picture gallery at The Hague, where the best works of the old Dutch masters are housed, but I had not expected to see such a one in the flesh and in the year 1919.

In the modern atmosphere of The Hague, one of the most up-to-date capitals of Europe, her appearance was incongruous enough, but what she was doing in that costume was even more startling. She was driving a tin Lizzie!

It was an ancient one, ancient at least as buzz-wagons go, for it had been born about 1912, and it limped. As it came panting down the lovely broad road that leads from The Hague, past the Palace of Peace, to Scheveningen, it hesitated in front of the bench where I was sitting, gasped asthmatically once or twice, and then settled down, apparently exhausted, for a protracted rest.

As nimbly as though she were shod in the soft slippers of the ballet dancer instead of cumbersome wooden clogs, the Dutch matron descended and began the tinkering that from the Rockies to the Hima-

ver, on each of which was a cup of delicious coffee and a pastry.

She was a fisherman's wife and had two sons. The tin Lizzie was the tangible evidence of war prosperity. The North Sea had been mined and Mevrouw's husband and sons were well paid for their courage in venturing out. But I was more interested in her "Anglish."

"The Netherlands," she told me in a broken fashion I shall not attempt to imitate, "is the country of the stranger, and as few people learn Dutch we must learn the languages of our visitors. We start very young in our schools with English, French and German, so that as we grow older it is not so difficult."

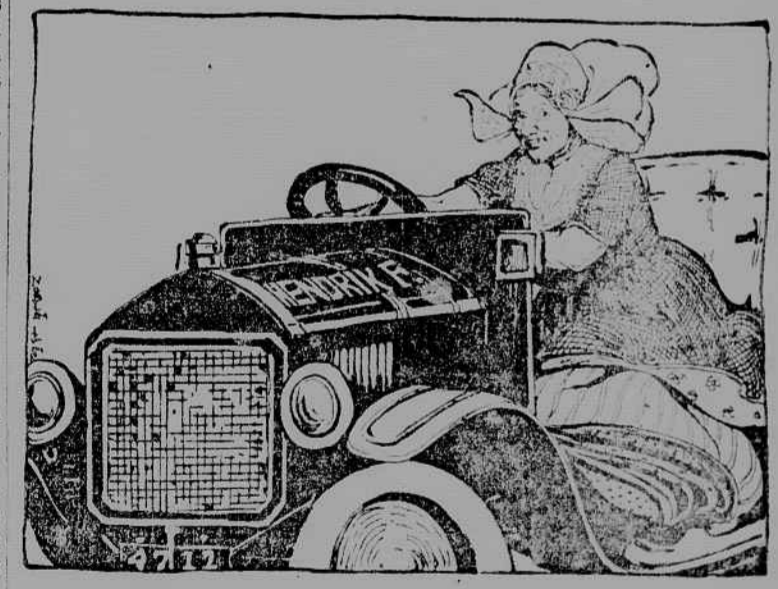
The linguistic accomplishments of the Dutch people whom I had met at my hotel had impressed me; I had not expected, however, to find it among the fishing-folk. I thought of my own smattering—the smattering that is served up to us in our American high schools—and held my peace before this humble housewife.

By this time Mevrouw von Til had produced her knitting needles and was clicking away earnestly on a gray woolen sock.

"Next to the American woman and the English woman," she observed proudly, "the Dutch woman is the most advanced. Would it surprise you, Miss, to hear that I am a suffragist?"

By this time it would not have surprised me to hear that she was an aviator, or a deep-sea diver, and I told her so.

"Yes, the world is moving quickly. Is it not so?" she continued. "Almost a million members we have in our suffrage society and already the Lower House—the important House—of our Parliament has said 'yes' to our suffrage bill. Presently we get it through the Top House, and



laysia threatens to become an established outdoor sport.

Unable to resist the temptation to "horn in," I approached to help with the tinkering. Mevrouw smiled fraternally, made a gesture of disgust, as comprehensible the world over to motorists as the "high sign" is to the Mason, and broke into a torrent of Dutch. It might just as well have been Greek, and when I told her so she provided the second surprise of the afternoon by replying:

"I spik some leetle Anglish!"

She did—very well, indeed—and some leetle French and German, too, as I learned when, Lizzie's engine cool and in working order again, she invited me to drive with her down to Scheveningen and have a cup of coffee at her home.

Ten minutes through a leafy wood and we were at the seaside resort, which has acquired many of the aspects of Brighton or Atlantic City—large hotels, cafes, cosmopolitan crowds—and has kept, at the same time, rather miraculously, much of the picturesque of the little fishing village that it started out in life as.

Far up the beach she stopped Lizzie at a tiny, pink-roofed cottage, as spectacularly clean as is everything in Holland. I waited on the miniature porch, contemplating the North Sea, while my hostess went inside and busied herself with the concrete expressions of hospitality. She returned anon, carrying two small individual trays of beaten sil-

then the Queen signs. She is backward, our poor Queen, but she signs just the same. She cannot help herself. It comes that way with queens now, is it not so?"

I agreed to the complete impotence of modern queens, and later verified Mevrouw's assertion about the imminence of woman's enfranchisement in Holland at the suffrage headquarters in The Hague, where I was told that victory is only a matter of a few months' more work.

What a picturesque occasion the first voting day in the land of dikes and windmills should be! As I left my charming hostess it occurred to me that the real progress of woman's advancement is not to be measured by the lightning adventures of the Pankhursts and the Pauls of the movement, but by the remarkable vision that is coming to lowly women in out of the way parts of the world. The Dutch fishwife in the tin Lizzie was not more dramatic or more incongruous than the kind of thoughts to be found burning around in the blond heads under the coifs of the peasants she typifies. It is as though they had taken on a new mental dress too quickly to have had time to consider the discarding of their ancient sartorial attire—picturesque, it is true, but entirely impractical when considered with automobile driving and balloting. To be emancipated from eight petticoats is as important a step as the shaking off of political disfranchisement.



Girl scouting is founded on patriotism, self-reliance and service.

ter. What is the first thought that comes when any one sees a scout, be it boy or girl? Usually it is something like this:

"There is a reliable person who can be depended upon for this, or who can help me with that." Yet most scouts are merely children. But these children become scouts only because they wish to and, having adopted the code voluntarily, they strive to live up to the scout laws and promises. The tradition of dependability, this "noblesse oblige" of scouting, appeals to the innate chivalry of every child's heart, and this tradition is being aided daily by what scouts in all countries have done in the great war. The scout slogan, "Do a good turn daily," grows from the little act of helpfulness into the habit of constant service, and the scout motto, "Be prepared," trains the habit of thought that makes the individual useful in emergencies and able to grasp opportunity when it comes.

Through the handicraft of scouting—the passing from one grade to another and the winning of badges in whatever subjects interest her—the scout's intelligence is tremendously quickened. She learns the fundamentals of child care, home nursing,

turned his training over to the boys of Great Britain and developed the Boy Scouts organization. Not long after this he found that thousands of girls were clamoring for the scout training and the same sort of fun, and therefore, with the help of his sister, he started a similar organization for girls, which he called the Girl Guides. He says:

"It is due to Mrs. Juliette Low, of Savannah, that the movement was successfully started in America."

### American Girls Changed Name

In fact, Mrs. Low started the first two troops in this country as "Girl Guides" in 1912, but the American girls, not possessing the tradition of the guide regiments of India and deriving their chief interest in scouting from their brothers, felt that since they were striving to live up to the standards of the scouts they should have the same name; so they changed it to Girl Scouts.

And now scouting for girls has spread around the world—to all parts of the British Empire, to most European countries, and even to China, Japan and South America. The great need everywhere is for leaders, women of vision and initiative.

## "Selling Uncle Sam" Through the Public Libraries

FAVORABLE action on the bill introduced to establish a division of library service in the Bureau of Education of the Department of the Interior by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor presages a final successful passage for the bill. It will mean a service from Washington for the libraries of the country that will be an enlarged effort of that made during the recent war to keep the libraries informed of everything the government was saying and doing to defend the country.

In 1918 the Government Printing Office issued more than 200,000 publications at a cost exceeding \$5,000,000. Those who are fostering the division declare that, in spite of the wealth of information contained in such publications, the majority of the people of the country remain in ignorance of the functions of the government. The value of the material has been proved. There is, however, a large percentage of waste now in the indiscriminate handling of the government bulletins because too much effort is spent on the production and none on "selling the product."

The proposed division of the Bureau of Education would "put across" the data which the government has assembled to the library users of the nation.

About four hundred depository libraries which have been designated by Congressmen receive once a month all matter issued by the government, excepting confidential mat-

ter, Congressional bills and hearings. Each department maintains special lists of persons to whom it sends its publications on special subjects. Each department makes its own library list, as well as lists for individuals, and there is no standardized library list anywhere in the government machinery with the exception of the depository libraries mentioned previously.

Miss Edith Guerrier, of the Boston Public Library, who has given most of the testimony in behalf of the bill, had the following to say at the House Committee hearing on the bill:

"Because of the widespread distribution of library organizations—one to every 6,000 inhabitants, one to every 200 square miles—50,000,000 people can easily be reached with authentic information given out by the government itself."

The distribution possibilities of libraries are strikingly brought out by the circulation figures of eight libraries in different parts of the United States. These show New York leading with 9,627,505 volumes distributed in 1918; Chicago next, 5,602,806 (1917); Cleveland (1916), 3,244,908, with Los Angeles and Boston practically tied for

third place with more than 2,000,000.

The possibilities of reaching the people of the state through county and travelling library systems Miss Guerrier shows by the following statistics:

"There were in California, according to the last obtainable statistics, July, 1917, 2,441 county free library branches, with a total of 751,249 volumes. Government pamphlets in county library collections reach readers in mountain passes, in lonely fishing hamlets and in the heart of the forests."

"With regard to travelling libraries, the Iowa system, according to the 1918 report, had 35,254 volumes. The splendid circulation of these books is shown by the circulation figure, 84,134. Government pamphlets as part of the travelling library system reach the remotest corners of the state."

"A library office in the government would be an economic measure. American libraries could be so used as to connect our great democratic government with the humblest citizen. Such a connection would help our people to think before criticising, to know instead of jumping to a conclusion, and to take just pride in the greatest government in the world which the authentic story of its functions and acts is sure to produce."

"During my service with the food



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